

REMARKS

Claims 4, 15, 19 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in subsequently filed continuation or divisional applications.

Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 9, 12 - 14, 16, 20, 25 and 29 have been amended.

Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 14, 16 - 18, 20 - 27 and 29 - 30 are present in the subject application.

In the Office Action dated May 19, 2006, the Examiner has objected to the Abstract, has objected to claims 4, 5, 19, 20, 28 and 29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §101, and has rejected claims 1 - 3, 6 - 18, 21 - 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Initially, the Examiner has objected to the Abstract due to inclusion of the title of the invention. Accordingly, the Abstract has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed toward non-statutory subject matter. However, this rejection is considered moot in view of the cancellation of claim 15.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 5, 19, 20, 28 and 29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner further indicated that these claims would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 16 and 25 have been amended to include the features of claims 4, 19 and 28, respectively, and are considered to be in condition for allowance. In addition, the independent claims have been amended slightly to further clarify

Amendment

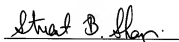
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/720,246

the present invention and indicate that the regression function is updated using the data mining model. The submission of the above claim amendments is not intended to reflect the propriety of the Examiner's position with respect to the rejections, but rather, are for purposes of expediting prosecution of the subject application.

Claims 2 - 3, 5 - 14, 17 - 18, 20 - 24, 26 - 27 and 29 - 30 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 16 or 25 and, therefore, include all the limitations of their parent claims. Claims 2 - 3, 5 - 9, 12 - 14, 20 and 29 have been amended for consistency with their amended parent claims. The dependent claims are considered to be in condition for allowance for substantially the same reasons discussed above in relation to their parent claims and for further limitations recited in the dependent claims.

The application, having been shown to overcome the issues raised in the Office Action, is considered to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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